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ALGERIA

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Yugoslavia

For Belgrade TANJUG coverage of the visit to Yugoslavia of Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, including talks with Federal Executive Council President Milka Planinc, see the Yugoslavia section of the 10 April Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Holds News Conference 9 April
LD102241 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2049 GMT 10 Apr 86

[News conference given by Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi on 9 April after meeting with military commanders in Tripoli to prepare plans to confront recent U.S. threats — recorded]

[Text] [Question in English] The United States is saying that Libya may be behind the recent wave of attacks. What is Libya's response to that?

[Answer in Arabic with simultaneous English translation] This is an old story which the world has been listening to for a long time, and the world has been [word indistinct] for some time. The world has no evidence or any proof of this old story. It is merely to justify aggression against an independent state to make it lose its independence.

[Question] Are you worried about the probability of the U.S. 6th Fleet returning?

[Answer] We have now finished preparing military plans for confrontation in light of recent U.S. anti-Libyan statements. The United States will be militarily defeated and will fail for the second time. This is an issue which has already been settled: If an aggression is committed against us then we will spread violence against the United States and against its civilian and military targets in all the continents of the world. This issue has already been decided. But the important thing is that from now on we will call on all the peoples of the world to expel the United States from the United Nations and from the UN Security Council. It should have no right to occupy a permanent seat in the UN Security Council because a country which occupies a permanent seat in the UN Security Council should preserve world peace whereas the United States is a crazy country which threatens world peace; it now has no right to occupy a permanent seat in the UN Security Council unless the American people bring down Reagan and the whole crazy U.S. Administration.

[Question in English] Who could be behind these attacks against U.S. targets? Could Libya be behind the attacks?

[Answer] The enemies of the United States — all peoples on earth — are behind these actions.

[Question] Does this include Libya?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the United States has turned Libya into an enemy but we have not yet issued orders for such action. When we issue such an order — if a new aggression is committed against us — then we will issue such an order to all international forces which helped us and to the forces of the Pan-Arab Command to start violence against the United States everywhere in the world. If a new aggression is committed then all the threats which I have told you of in previous news conferences will be implemented, including making the Mediterranean into a war zone — which will include southern Europe — and sea and air transport in the Mediterranean will be stopped.

[Question] Can you explain to us what the United States aims to achieve by its political, economic, and military attack on the Arab region in general and Libya in particular?

[Answer] Its aim is to subjugate the Arab nation and to make Israel into the strongest power in the region. It wants to subjugate the Arab homeland to neocolonialism and to continue its siege of the USSR. Its strategy requires that all the regions which stand in the way should be subjugated to U.S. influence. Fortunately this brings us and the USSR together because we are fighting for our independence; but at the same time we are doing the USSR a service because we are fighting its enemy which is advancing at our expense toward the USSR.

[Question by TASS correspondent in Russian followed by Arab translation] Mikhail Gorbachev presented a new initiative for establishing peace in the Mediterranean through the withdrawal of the USSR and U.S. fleets. What is your position on this initiative? Why in your opinion did the U.S. reject this initiative?

[Answer] We supported it from the beginning; we support this proposal. This initiative indicates the USSR's peaceful intentions and our friend Gorbachev's wish to remove the danger of war from the world. This shows the difference between a superpower which feels its responsibilities toward world peace and which is the opposite of the irresponsible behavior of the U.S. Administration — a behavior devoid of any feeling of responsibility toward world peace. Together with the peoples of the Mediterranean we will support the USSR proposal of withdrawing the superpower fleets from the Mediterranean. As for why the United States rejected it, it is known that it is primarily to protect the Zionist entity [words indistinct] and to punish the Mediterranean Arab countries. Therefore, to safeguard imperialist interests, the United States does not care about world peace.

[Question in English] Will the Soviets defend you militarily if the 6th Fleet returns? Will the Soviets defend you militarily?

[Answer] Generally we are friends with the USSR and there is an agreement between us and the USSR to consult each other during serious crises to coordinate our efforts.

[Question in English] In case of a U.S. attack, do you think the USSR will give military support to Libya?

[Answer] If the battle is against the U.S. fleet or bases in southern Europe we will not need foreign military help. However, if the

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war escalated then naturally the USSR would not stand idle if a war was spreading further afield and was being waged by a superpower. Anyhow, any country that helps the 6th Fleet, be it European or Arab, will be involved in the coming war.

[Question in English] After the 6th Fleet left here it went to the bases in Spain, does that mean that Spain is now vulnerable?

[Answer] If war breaks out Italy, Spain, and the Mediterranean islands and any Arab ports the 6th Fleet may put pressure on will be within the circle of military operations.

[Indistinct question]

[Answer] The United States wants to sacrifice the interests of Western Europe for the sake of its own interests. U.S. interests prevail and it wants the Europeans to sacrifice their interests. This conforms with the policy of hegemony and exerting control over others which is an imperialist policy. The United States wants Europe to succumb to its will so it emerges as the winner and other people are the losers. However, the European peoples are aware of this and have rejected this foolish request presented by Reagan who is even more foolish than the request.

[Question in English] Reagan is asking the Europeans to join sanctions against Libya again, if they do that how will that hurt Libya?

[Answer in English] I have answered this in Arabic. Europe would be the loser if it answered America's call. However, Europe will not do that because Europe knows that the United States wants to sacrifice its [Europe's] interests for the sake of U.S. interests. Generally, if the American security all over the world it should be clear from now that the American Administration is responsible for that and not us in case it carried out an attack on our homes and on our families. [sentence as heard]

[Question] How would the Europeans be the loser if they joined in the economic sanctions?

[Answer] Because they have large economic interests now and in the future regarding Libya. Libya is a country very rich in gas, oil, and other natural resources; it has huge projects it wants to build and the European companies can benefit from these projects.

[Question] What is the significance of the simultaneous U.S. aggression against Libya and the current Zionist threats against Syria? Do you expect a confrontation against the two countries to occur simultaneously?

[Answer] Naturally the Israelis are the U.S. forward base and we consider them to be one target, however, they could not destroy the great Arab nation.

[Indistinct question]

[Answer] The confrontation with the United States will bring the day of Arab unity nearer and will push the masses toward revolution against any regime which does not support this confrontation. And if war breaks out the armies and the youth, and

the masses will rise in mutiny against all regimes along all the borders common to Libya and Syria.

[Indistinct question in English]

[Answer] Losses are not important to us. What is important is that the line of death has been baptized by U.S. and Libyan blood.

[Question in English] One more question: In May they are going to hold a summit meeting in Tokyo and Reagan is coming with a proposal to accuse you of international terrorism and to propose economic sanctions against Libya; France, Germany, England, and Japan will discuss this. I would appreciate it if you could comment on how Japan [as heard] will act.

[Answer] We welcome the convocation of this conference and we are prepared to participate in it because we are sure we will never be condemned in this conference, and that Reagan will be condemned. He has now admitted before the world that he practiced international state terrorism against an independent state.

[Question] You have offered to mediate; you have said you tried to contact the Americans to see if you could come to some agreement with them. What do you have to offer? What are you offering the Americans in the way of an agreement with them?

They say they want to get rid of you totally. What do you suggest as an agreement with the United States unless it has declared that it will abandon the policy of state terrorism as an agreement between the two?

[Answer] There are no negotiations with the United States unless it has declared that it will abandon the policy of state terrorism.

[Question] What do you say to people who say that the colonel has sent a letter or some kind of a message [words indistinct]?

[Answer laughing] If it exists let us see it. We challenge them to publish this letter. We defy them and challenge them to publish it.

Southern Europe To Be Included in Counterattack Plan **LDTT504 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 11 Apr 86**

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Apr (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution made a statement to JANA today and said that Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah rejects with unswerving courage the unjust and insolent military threats which do not scare it at all as the targets defined by the aggressors in front of the whole world are pure civilian targets which are completely free from any military presence. And since the threat emanated this time from the whole of NATO and is aimed at hitting at our homes and sons, the whole of southern Europe has been included today, Friday, within the Libyan counterattack plan without any discrimination.